

## **CABINET**

**Thursday 1 December 2011**

Councillor W J Clarke (Chair)

Councillors:	M R Payne (Vice chair)	J Creamer
	R Allan	J Hollingsworth
	P Feeney	D E Pulk (a)
	C Barnfather (Observer)	P A Hughes (Observer)

**Officers in attendance:** J Robinson, S. Bray, H Barrington, A. Ball, J. Vickers, J. Ansell

### **62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pulk.

### **63 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **64 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

### **65 PRESENTATION: JOHN CORNETT, DISTRICT AUDITOR**

Members were provided with an overview of the Annual Audit Letter. The District Auditor informed Members that the Council had demonstrated strong financial planning and reporting and effective monitoring of performance against the budget.

**RESOLVED:**

to note the Annual Audit Letter and thank the District Auditor for his presentation;

to write a letter of thanks to all staff in recognition of their continued high performance.

### **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

## 66 TECHNICAL REFORMS OF COUNCIL TAX

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Corporate Services which had been previously circulated. The Revenue Services Manager informed Members of a consultation period, which was scheduled to close on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2011, seeking views on proposals to give billing authorities greater discretion over the reliefs from council tax available in respect of second homes and some empty properties; and other potential reforms of the council tax system to operate with effect from April 2013.

### RESOLVED:

to delegate the authority to formulate the full response to the consultation paper to the Head of Corporate Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance.

## 67 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Strategy and Performance which had been previously circulated, outlining a request for a nomination to the Citizen's Advice Bureau Board of Directors.

### RESOLVED:

to approve the nomination of Councillor Blair to the Board of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

## 68 MEMBERS QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

None received

## 69 PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

**Councillor R. Allan (Portfolio Holder for Economic and Strategic Development)** made Members aware of the intention to re-consult on the Severn Trent wind turbines at Stoke Bardolph, following the submission of amended supporting information. The re-consultation period will be extended to take the Christmas break into account.

**Councillor Feeney (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability)** reported that all services had operated as usual on the recent day of industrial action.

**Councillor J. Creamer (Portfolio Holder for Community and Employee Relations)** informed Members of plans to improve public information systems and through-flow arrangements in the Contact Centre/Lobby area,

including a T.V. display screen and a modernised ticket machine. Councillor Creamer also informed Members of a meeting with Parish Councils on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Councillor J. Hollingsworth (Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing)** informed Members that as of the date of this meeting Gedling Borough Council is enacting its severe weather policy.

**Councillor M. Payne (Portfolio Holder for Communications and Public Protection)** gave an update on the current crime and antisocial behaviour levels in the Borough: He reported that overall crime was falling month on month, however auto crime and domestic violence were a cause for concern. He congratulated the Chief Executive for raising the profile of Domestic Violence in his role as DV Champion and made reference to a forthcoming awareness campaign involving the Nottingham Post and a range of other partners..

**Councillor WJ Clarke, (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance)** Thanked officers for the distribution to all Members of the emergency out of hours telephone numbers, and proposed that the contact details for out of hours Domestic Violence services be included on the list and circulated.